



25th Annual Holocaust
Art & Writing Contest

Chapman University and
The 1939 Society

MEMORRY

Answering
the Call of

Choosing
to Act

Entry postmark date
FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Digital submission
due date
FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Awards Ceremony
MARCH 15, 2024



Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education
Stern Chair in Holocaust Education
Sala and Aron Samuelli Holocaust
Memorial Library

Answering the Call of

MEMORY



Choosing to Act

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South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

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holocaust-arts-contest



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We hope that these words will inspire you and your school to participate in the

25TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

Participating schools may submit a total of three entries (one entry per student) in any combination of the following categories: art, film, poetry, or prose.



Students will be eligible to win a first prize award of \$400 in each category. Educators and schools will also be eligible to win a first prize of \$200 each. First-place student winners in the United States, their parents/guardians, and teachers will be invited to participate in an expense-paid study trip June 24 - 28, 2024, to visit the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, the Japanese American National Museum, and other sites in Los Angeles, as well as to meet with members of The 1939 Society, a community of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. Funding permitting, this invitation will be extended to first-place students living outside of the United States. In addition, first-place student entries will be posted on Chapman University's contest website.

Students awarded second prize in each category will receive \$200 and their sponsoring educator and school will receive \$100 each.

ART CREDITS

Cover: *The Creation of Connection* by Amanda Harris (2019), based on Ludmila Page's testimony.

Submissions Page: *Bread of Creation* by Kelly Zhou (2015), based on Leopold Page's testimony.

Criteria Page: *The True Hero of Leon Leyson* by Cheryl Smith (2009) based on Leon Leyson's testimony.

INSPIRATION



For many survivors of the Holocaust, speaking of their experiences was exceedingly difficult, even gut-wrenching. It meant reliving their own suffering and even more painfully, experiencing anew the loss of those they loved. After the war, most survivors were determined to focus on the present and the future, not on the past. If they had children, they often felt it would be wrong to burden them with the painful memories of their own youth. The past couldn't be changed—although Holocaust deniers would try to do so—but the future could.

In time, as survivors thought about the future, they realized that their memories could play a role in shaping the future. Perhaps their memories could educate people to the danger of remaining silent in the face of bigotry, racism, and antisemitism. Perhaps sharing the stories of the courageous few who had chosen to stand with those persecuted would inspire people now to do the same. Perhaps their memories could teach people that standing up for justice and human rights is what we should expect of ourselves and others, rather than be the exception.

When Miep Gies was asked why she risked her life to hide the Otto Frank family in the secret attic in Amsterdam, she replied that she only did what any other good Dutch person would do. She didn't see anything remarkable or heroic about her actions. Some people became rescuers as a result of a spontaneous decision. Others surprised even themselves by their actions. Oskar Schindler was a Nazi businessman who sought to make his fortune from the misfortune of Jews in Poland. Yet, over time, he came to see his Jewish workers as individuals whose well-being was entrusted to him. What might have once been unthinkable to him—spending his entire fortune to save his 1200 Jewish workers—became what he expected of himself.

Survivors also shared memories of how they helped one another, refusing to allow the inhumanity of their persecutors to dehumanize them. They told of words and actions that brought hope in the most desperate of times. They came to see that sharing their memories could give them strength and help them heal from trauma and do even more—their memories could inspire us today to engage in acts of *tikkun olam*, healing the world not by grand gestures but by even the smallest of actions wherever we see need and know we can make a difference. As the words of the Talmud inscribed on the ring given to Oskar Schindler by his workers said, “whoever saves one life, saves the world entire.”

How will Holocaust memory inspire you to act?

*“For us forgetting was never an option.
...The call of memory, the call to memory, reaches
us from the very dawn of history.”*

ELIE WIESEL

PROMPT

1. Select and view one full-length survivor or rescuer testimony from any of the following:
 - Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website, featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education at [Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies](https://www.chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
 - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php
 - The 1939 Society website at the1939society.org
 - USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](https://www.youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation) ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists only)
 - USC Shoah Foundation's iWitness site at iwitness.usc.edu

* Lists of testimonies that are one to two hours in length are available on the contest website.

2. As you listen to the survivor's or rescuer's testimony about their experiences, choose one specific memory that inspires you to action as a witness to a witness. How does this memory move you to answer the call of memory?

3. Write down a specific word, phrase, or sentence from the memory you have chosen that is the catalyst for your reflection and action.

Through your creativity in art, poetry, prose, or film, explore this word, phrase, or sentence as central to both the survivor's or rescuer's specific Holocaust memory and to the action you will take as a witness to a witness in answering this call of memory.

Please note the timecode from the video testimony where the specific word, phrase, or sentence occurs.

We encourage teachers to consult [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](https://www.chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for rubrics and other information.

The 1939 Society

The 1939 Society is an organization of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. It takes its name from the year that Germany invaded Poland, changing forever the lives of those who would join together in Los Angeles 1952 to form the Society.

The 1939 Society has available on its website nearly 100 full-length oral testimonies. Some of these oral histories were recorded in the early 1980s at the University of California, Los Angeles; others were recorded in the mid-1990s in Orange County by the Anti-Defamation League.

South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

South Carolina Council on the Holocaust hosts 37 testimonies of Holocaust survivors on its website, which were recorded in the 1990s together with SCE-TV. The website also includes a brief summary of each testimony and a written transcript.

USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education

USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education has an archive of more than 55,000 videotaped testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. The USC Shoah Foundation is part of the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California.

CRITERIA

Please see the educator guide or visit Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest for specific criteria, including word limits (prose) and line limits (poetry), rubrics for the various categories, and other supporting information.

General Criteria – All Categories

- 1 Regardless of delivery method (digital or hard copy), all entrants **must complete the online submission form** (available at Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest).
- 2 Entries must reflect genuine engagement with the survivor's or rescuer's testimony in its historical context and constitute a thoughtful and creative response.
- 3 Entries must be based on a survivor's or rescuer's testimony available from one of the following sources:
 - The 1939 Society website at the1939society.org
 - Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education at Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies
 - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php
 - USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists [only](#))
 - USC Shoah Foundation's iWitness site at iwitness.usc.edu

Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.



SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AND PRIZES

Prizes will be distributed at the awards ceremony. Students must be in attendance (either in person or virtually) to be eligible for first and second place prizes. Exceptions must be approved in advance.

Three student representatives from each school, their teacher, and/or principal (depending on seat availability) are invited to the awards ceremony:

Friday, March 15, 2024, 11 a.m.

Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall,
Chapman University, One University Drive,
Orange, CA 92866

The highlights of the event will include:

- The announcement of the winning art, film, prose, and poetry entries (one middle school and one high school);
- The presentation of the first-place art, film, prose, and poetry entries;
- A reception to honor our guests;
- The opportunity to meet and talk with Holocaust survivors, many of whose video testimonies are posted on The 1939 Society and USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education’s websites.

“Anyone who listens to a witness becomes a witness. So those who hear us must continue to bear witness for us. . . . At a certain point in time, they will do it for all of us.”

ELIE WIESEL



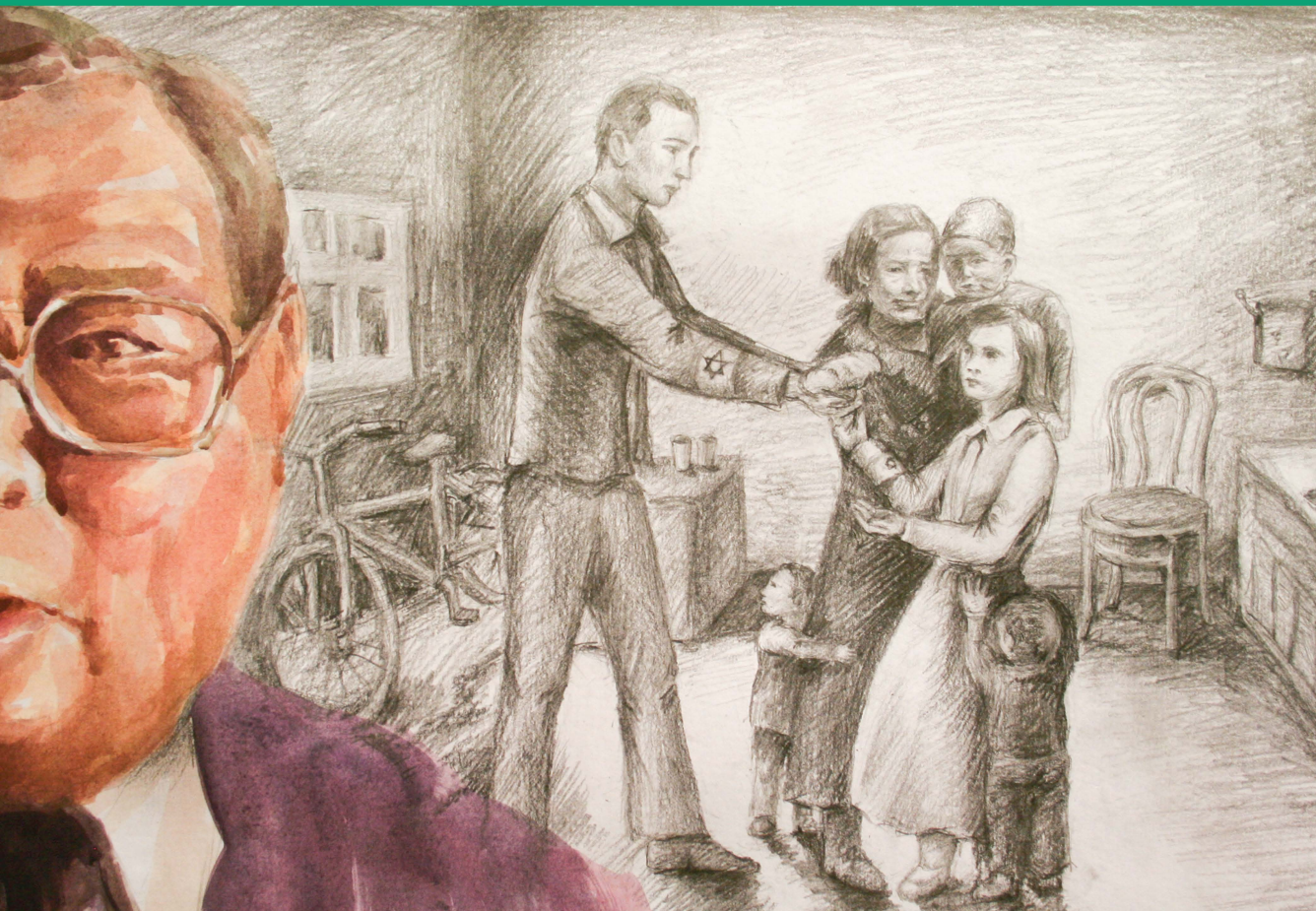
SUBMISSIONS

Your school's three entries may be submitted beginning December 1, 2023 and **must be postmarked by February 2, 2024 or digitally submitted by February 5, 2024**. Entries may be submitted digitally using the online submission form found on the Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website. Art may also be submitted via postal mail to:

Jessica Mylymuk

Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education
Chapman University
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. Artists are encouraged to retain a color copy of their work since the original may not be returned. The Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library shall own all the rights to the entries, including copyrights, and may display and publish the entries, in whole, or in part.



We encourage educators to consult Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest for rubrics and other information.